



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

VBT man pleads guilty to Receiving & Concealing stolen goods

By Rosemary K. Oztman
 Independent Editor

Thomas Michael Johnson, 51, of Van Buren Township pleaded guilty to one count of Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property at a court session April 27 before 34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green.



Johnson

Johnson was represented by a court-appointed attorney. In his plea deal, two of three Receiving and Concealing charges were dismissed. Johnson told the judge he was to have heart valve surgery in May. Judge Green put him on probation and will sentence him in two months.

The break-in victim who owned the stolen goods possessed by Johnson will receive notice of the sentencing date. She asked for restitution and she will need to show proof of out-of-pocket expenses.

Johnson was arrested April 4 by Van Buren Township Police after being found with a stolen flat-screened TV and other stolen items.

In a news release April 30, VBT Police Captain Greg Laurain said with Johnson's arrest, police came closer to solving the rash of home invasions in the Denton Subdivision from November through April.

Captain Laurain said Special Investigative Unit (SIU) personnel spent countless hours of surveillance and investigating tips. He said they put together five cases after seeing Johnson attempting to transport stolen property from his residence in the 6500 block of Parkside in Town and Country mobile home park. He was carrying a flat screened TV stolen from a Michigan Avenue home the day before.

Laurain said a search warrant was executed



A large crowd of people attended Saturday's two-hour open house at the old Belleville High School that will be torn down as soon as students have completed classes and left for the summer. Here, the former students and parents of students, look over the old gymnasium that hosted so many basketball games over the years. Many of those touring the building wore orange and black jackets and shirts and caps that read BHS. The people were free to poke around and relive their high school days without interference. The BHS National Honor Society handed out maps of the building, so they wouldn't get lost.

on Johnson's residence and a large cache of jewelry and electronics were seized along with prescriptions narcotics bottles from prior break-ins in Denton Subdivision.

Court portion of the story written from court notes taken by Diane Madigan.

VBT Police report home invasion of occupied dwelling on Forestdale

At about 5:45 a.m. Sunday, a young, black male entered an unlocked garage window and then forced his way through a locked service door into a house in the 43000 block of Forestdale in Walden

Woods subdivision – while the female resident was sleeping.

The resident told Van Buren Township Police that she was sleeping in a basement bedroom when she heard noises coming from upstairs and thought it was her husband coming home. Minutes later she opened the bedroom door and came face to face with the intruder, who appeared to be in his 20s.

The intruder was startled as well and ran back upstairs while the resident called police.

VBT Police Captain Gregory Laurain said it was only when police were speaking with the resident that she noticed the 2009 Honda Accord was missing from the garage, along with two laptop computers from the home.

Officers on the scene said it appeared the rest of the rooms were undisturbed.

Captain Laurain said it currently appears to be a random crime of opportunity and the resident was not targeted by the suspect.

In an unrelated incident, while
 (continued on page 8)



Eunice Kause, whose three children graduated from BHS in the 1980s, poses with one of the two tigers she painted on the wall of the pool in 1971, at the request of swim coach Sam Vicchy.

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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Sumpter Twp. Board considers Nature Conservancy proposal

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Sumpter Township contains one of the most bio-diverse regions in the world, with more than 200 different species of plants and wildlife in an acre.

This was the message brought to the township board at its April 24 workshop meeting by representatives of the non-profit Nature Conservancy who want to use their Green Ribbon Initiative grant funds to rehabilitate three township-owned parcels in the Lakeplain Oak Openings Region, which straddles the Michigan-Ohio state line and reaches up into Sumpter.

The work would include cutting down of invasive species and a prescribed burn that would destroy the scrub and allow the meadowland to grow its flowers and native grasses.

Parcels targeted are at the northwest corner of Arkona and Martinsville; on Martinsville south of Willow; and on Rawsonville south of Arkona.

The Green Ribbon Initiative partnership group provides "I'm Proud to Live in the Oak Openings Region" plaques for those participating in the land registry.

The township board will have its attorney look over the legal agreement necessary and will make a decision at an upcoming meeting. There would be no cost to the township.

Conservancy representative Mike Losey said Blue Weekend is being celebrated May 17-20 and he urged those interested to get more information on www.oakopenings.org.

Also, at the April 24 workshop, the board:

- Heard a presentation by IVSCOMM, a voice-over-internet protocol. The business will study township phone bills and come back with a report on how much this will save the township. The police department already has VOI from another vendor;
- Heard a presentation by Rhonda Overman of Van Buren Township who volunteered to be a chaplain for the police and fire departments. During the regular meeting she was approved as chaplain, pending a background check;
- Heard a presentation from Cody of Boy Scout Troop 231, who wants to build a 13x20' pavilion on a cement slab at the fire station to provide a covered area for chicken dinners, cookouts, and other fire department events. He wants to do it for his Eagle Scout project. The fire department already gave its approval;
- Heard Jamie Goode tell about the specialized fire fighter training he would like to attend in Howell throughout the summer. The training would qualify him

for a Western Wayne consortium position that would save the township money. Cost for hotel stays at various times from May through September would be \$1,193.40, which the board approved during the regular meeting; and

- Heard Belleville Police Chief Gene Taylor tell of his flag project for the greater Belleville area that is aimed at getting everyone, in businesses and homes, to fly an American flag on Flag Day, June 14. Chief Taylor has available kits that include a porch flag, a pole, and brackets (and a bumper sticker) for \$15. Those kits will be available at the Sumpter Police Department. Chief Taylor said those who cannot afford to buy a flag can get a free flag through his program.

In business at the April 24 regular meeting, which followed the workshop, the board:

- Learned the Parks and Recreation Commission decided to have Mary Sherwood as Grand Marshall of the Sumpter Country Fest Parade. Honorary Citizens will be Leroy and Kathy Paige, Gertie Bies and daughters Diane and Theresa;
- Approved consigning the 1999 F-150 water/sewer pickup truck to Fox Auto Parts Auction to sell;
- Approved on a 6-1 vote, with Trustee Alan Bates voting no, awarding a \$23,448.40 bid to Diversified Excavating for Banotai Park site work, paid from the \$40,000 Wayne County Parks Grant;
- Approved drafting of an ordinance requiring banks or mortgage lenders to notify the township on foreclosures and abandoned homes;
- Approved having Great Lakes do the fireworks at the Country Fest on Sunday, May 27, with a rain date of May 28;
- Approved appointment of Jim Chudzinski as an alternate to the Parks and Recreation Commission;
- Approved first reading of Ordinance 40-B to regulate activity within the parks, particularly concerning watercraft;
- Approved the contractual appointment of Malissa Baker as the Police Administration and Operations Coordinator;
- Approved the first reading of Ordinance 91-59C, concerning changes to the Obstruction of Public Ways, Noxious Shrubs, Plants, Weeds and Other Conditions ordinance;
- Approved the new organizational chart and standard operating procedure for the Building and Ordinance Department;
- Approved moving Randy Lynch from part-time DPW worker to full-time AFSCME employee with duties split between Ordinance and DPW departments;
- Approved moving Michael Petrowski from part-time to full-time AFSCME



Sumpter Police Lt. Eric Luke, left, and Dispatch Coordinator Malissa Baker were recognized by Police Chief James Pierce for outstanding service at the April 24 township board meeting. When financial difficulties led to the decision to merge dispatch services with Huron Township, Lt. Luke and Baker worked long hours, often sacrificing their own personal time, to attend Dispatch coordination meetings, to communicate and coordinate with the Huron Township Police representatives and vendors, and to oversee in-house structural implementations and downsizing. Chief Pierce praised their work and said the transfer of dispatch services couldn't have been done without them. He also praised the dispatchers who were "Guardian Angels watching over us while we were sleeping in our beds."



John Morgan, left, thanks Barbara Thomason, Nutrition Manager for Wayne County, for the sweet potato pies she and her helper Pearl baked up for the Sumpter Senior Volunteer Appreciation party on April 26. At right is Mary Ann Watson, Sumpter Senior Coordinator. The party honored the many volunteers that make the senior program work. *Independent* Editor Rosemary Otzman was guest speaker.

employee in the DPW/Water Department;

- Approved purchase of up to \$40,000 worth of 800 MHz radio equipment for the fire department because the hoped-for grant didn't go through;

- Learned from attorney Rob Young that part-time police officer Louann Hamblin has tendered her resignation and there is a separation agreement from her attorney. She will be dedicating more of her time to teaching and training, Young said;

- Heard Young report four full-time and one part-time dispatchers will work through the end of April. The full-time employees will receive three months of medical benefits and the part-time worker, John McNichol, will get a \$1,000 payment in lieu of benefits; and

- Held a disciplinary hearing for fire fighter Marty Kalasz and then suspended him for 30 days, with clerk Clarence Hoffman voting no.

OPINIONS

Editorial

Willow Run Tea Party Caucus rides into Van Buren Township

At Monday's work/study and Tuesday's regular meetings of the Van Buren Township Board of trustees, members of the Willow Run Tea Party Caucus came to comment on agenda items and offer advice on how to run a more people friendly – and legal -- government.

There were about ten members there, most from the Ypsilanti area, but some from Van Buren and Sumpter townships.

Director of the Willow Run Tea Party Caucus is Dennis Moore, BHS '71, who invited anyone interested to their meetings at the Big Sky Diner from 9 p.m. to midnight every Friday. (Actually, most people stick around talking until 2 a.m., Moore said later.)

Township Supervisor White tried to shut Moore down while issuing the invitation, citing a rule against political statements. White said John Herman's invitation to the Democratic Caucuses on Saturday, made a little earlier in the meeting, was different.

Tea Party member Dr. Douglas Smith, a retired professor of pathology at the U of M, criticized the board's roll call vote to go into executive session during a workshop session the day before for not being in the official minutes posted on the internet. The vote is part of the workshop minutes, he was told, and that's available to the public by FOIA. Dr. Smith was very unhappy with that answer. Citizens having to FOIA minutes? Looks like the Tea Party is on the job to get VBT on the straight and narrow.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

A reader called to say she was thinking of running for the Belleville Area District Library Board. She asked if the board members got paid. The answer is: No.

Jason Hunt of Sumpter Township called to tell me that he was the Good Samaritan who directed traffic in a reflective vest on Rawsonville Road after the big tree fell over on April 23 and blocked the roadway, as pictured in our April 26 issue.

Jason said there was just enough room for one lane of traffic and he was afraid someone would get hit head-on if everyone, both north- and southbound, tried to get around the tree at once.

He said he is not a construction worker, as the picture-taker suggested. He was on his way home from work in a factory. He said he carries the reflective vest in his car and just put it on and started directing traffic, letting a few northbound through and then a few southbound and so forth.

Finally the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department arrived and blocked the southbound traffic at Snow Road, allowing it to be just one-way northbound. He said he thinks the Road Commission was coming to take care of the tree.

Last Thursday, when we drove by on Rawsonville as we delivered our *Independents*, we could see the tree was cut up and piled by the side of the road.

Ken Cloutier of Belle Villa in Belleville said that at about 2 p.m. last Thursday he saw a female Mallard with about 10 little ducklings in his neighborhood. He tried to count the ducklings, but they kept walking on each other, milling around, and falling down



as they were trying to get up on the curb, so he had a hard time being precise with the count.

He wondered if this duck family was the same one that was saved on Main Street. I doubt it, but I wouldn't be able to tell them apart under any conditions. I'm sure there are a lot of duck families out and around these days. And, then there are the families of Canada geese everywhere.

A website called UFO Stalker states that an unidentified flying object was reported to have been seen at about 9:30 p.m. Friday in the Harmony Lane area, north of Belleville Lake.

The eye-witness report said the slow-moving ball moved across the sky from west to south, starting from the left side of Venus, from the Belleville, MI point of view. It made no sound and it was steady. It appeared orange/yellow near Venus and then looked white when it was "over us."

This is the third sighting in Belleville reported to the website, with the last one on April 6 and the one before that on July 30, 2011.

The website has a chart that shows there are 20-30 UFOs sighted globally per day.

On Monday, I asked VBT Trustee Jeff Jahr, who lives on Harmony Lane, if he was the one who reported the UFO and he said it wasn't him, but if he saw one he might report it.

Sumpter Township Clerk Clarence Hoffman

announced at a recent township meeting that air conditioners have been stolen from one of Sumpter's churches. He stressed that members of the community have to look out for each other and lead police the right way.

GE's shareholders' meeting in Detroit last week brought out a large group of rowdy demonstrators who urged GE to pay its fair share in taxes. GE had a big press conference to show off some new items it had developed and announced it would be adding 300 jobs in Van Buren Township. It also donated \$500,000 to two health care groups.

Meanwhile, at GE's facility at Grace Lake Corporate Center (Visteon Village) in VBT, township police officers stood by on a special detail to make sure everything stayed peaceful there. It is reported that GE paid the officers overtime pay for their work at the site.

At Monday's special School Board meeting there were hearty congratulations all around for Board Secretary Kevin English, who graduated from the University of Michigan on Saturday with a degree in English, I'm told. He was elected to the school board just after graduation from BHS. My, how time flies.

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Letters

'Old folks' give BHS one last hug on Saturday

To the Editor:

Saturday was a great day for the tri-communities but especially the Van Buren Public Schools. As a citizen and trustee of the school district it was rewarding to see all the "old folks" come out to tour and give old BHS one last hug and a chance to revisit their youth.

It was amazing the number of people who turned out for the Memory Tour. At one point it looked like passing time in the hallways when school was in session. You could barely walk. People anxiously awaited their turn to have their picture taken by their graduate composite hanging in the main hall.

Others were busy buying up old jerseys with their graduation year on them sponsored by the newly formed Belleville Football Booster Club. Still others were looking through old yearbooks for sale and issues of the Belleville Paw Print. I overheard comments like this is where we skipped out, and that teacher was sure hard. Some were laughing and some were crying but one thing was evident, they took pride in their school and they are still interested in seeing Van Buren Public Schools go on to even greater things.

As they peered through the window to view the new courtyard and see the newly renovated auditorium there were big smiles. All in all it was a great moment for the community that showed just what an important role PUBLIC EDUCATION had played in their lives.

A big "THANK YOU" to all those who helped plan this special event! Tom Fielder who suggested it, Mr. Van Tassel, the high school administrators, secretaries, building and grounds department, students, and all those community members who worked together to make it a huge success.

On that very same evening The VBPS Education Foundation held their 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner at St. Anthony's Father Folta Bldg next to BHS where over 300 families from the tri-communities again showed up to support the Van Buren Public Schools by attending a fun filled evening with great food, terrific music, and even a magic show for the kids.

Everyone had a chance to win big and take home a great basket donated by the schools, businesses, families, and friends.

It was a wonderful evening seeing the young and old get together to support public education and showing their support for the job the teachers and administrators do for their students. All proceeds go to grants to the teachers and children of the Van Buren Public Schools.

HATS OFF and THANK YOU to the Foundation members, their families, friends, teachers, administrators, students, and all those who spent countless hours planning, organizing, setting up, and cleaning up. It was a JOB WELL DONE!

Sherry Frazier

Van Buren Public Schools Trustee

Thank you for helping with 'Fly a Kite' day

To the Editor:

Thank you to everyone who helped to make "Let's Go Fly a Kite" in Belleville day a success. We hope the folks who braved the cool and rainy weather had a good time.

It was exciting to watch the different kite styles as they took flight. There were birds, fish and characters like "Sponge Bob", in all the colors of the rainbow. We even had one high flyer. He was able to keep his kite in the clouds with little effort.

We enjoyed the variety of food made available by BACA members. The hot coffee was a nice touch.

Special thanks to Juan Verde and his family for sharing their vast knowledge of kites with us. We also appreciate "Kites & Fun Things" of Plymouth for working with us.

Working together makes our Belleville area community a great place to live. Belleville Parks and Recreation Commission & Belleville Area Council for the Arts

"You can't shake hands with a clenched fist."

--Indira Gandhi



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Belleville Area Independent

More Letters

Here's more information on Cpl. Henry Lewis

To the Editor:

Thank you for the photograph in the April 19 *Independent* on Civil War descendants and about Henry Lewis, Congressional Medal of Honor awardee. I've included additional information about Henry in response to Ryan Bidwell's remarks in the April 26 paper.

Henry Lewis joined the 47th Ohio Infantry from Adrian. A group from Michigan had formed this Company and Michigan's Governor would not accept them as Michigan's quota had been reached. The men then contacted the Governor of Ohio and he was willing to accept the men as Company B and attached them to the Ohio 47th Infantry.

Henry Lewis, along with a Henry Peters, received the last Congressional Medals of Honor on April 17, 1917 for the Civil War. Henry Lewis was still alive at that time.

Sadly, this wonderful honor that began for Civil War soldiers was widely abused. Medals were given to the 27th Maine for enlisting, members who were members of Lincoln's funeral guard, etc.

In 1916, a special panel of five retired Army generals was given the task of reviewing the Army's Medal recipients. This authority studied the cases of the 1,519 medals bestowed by the army and rescinded 911 of them. Several may have been appealed and restored at a later date. (The 1,519 were from the Civil War.)

Your readers might like to know that my husband Keith and I have been researching our local boys in the Civil War and may reach nearly 200 of them who either lived here before the War, moved here after the War, or are buried here.

We will be doing more programs on local soldiers in the future. With community support, we hope to raise funds to gather and preserve the history of our Civil War soldiers.

If you have an ancestor from our community who served in the War, please let us know.

Ginger Bruder
734-461-2498

Michigan Democrats to caucus on Saturday

Michigan Democrats will caucus on Saturday, beginning at 9 a.m. In Belleville, they meet at Victory Station at Victory Park. In Sumpter Township, it's at the Community Center. In Van Buren Township, they will meet at the Wayne County Fairgrounds on Quirk Road.

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Obituaries



Jasper L. Moore

JASPER L. MOORE

(August 30, 1921 - April 27, 2012)

Jasper Lewis Moore, age 90, of Beverly Hills, MI, passed away Friday, April 27, 2012 at William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI. He was born August 30, 1921, in Detroit, MI, son of the late George W. & Emma (Giegler) Moore.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during WWII. He received his bachelor's degree from University of Michigan in history. He was the past Governor of Michigan's Mayflower Society and an officer of Colonial Warriors. He retired after more than 30 years from what is now Comerica Bank. He was a voracious reader, enjoyed travel anywhere, gardening and art.

Jasper is survived by his loving wife of 62 years Harriet (Robbe) Moore; two daughters Catherine (William) Wegert of Beverly Hills, MI and Emily (Jeffrey) Lapides of Naperville, IL; his three adored grandsons Alexander and Benjamin Lapides and Andrew Wegert. He was preceded in death by his parents, also a son Robbe Jasper Moore in 2008.

Visitation was 3-8 PM Monday with a 1:00 PM Funeral Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville. Interment was in Tyler Street Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to Belleville's Historical Society or the charity of the donor's choice. Please sign his on-line guest book at www.davidcbrownfh.com and share a memory for his family to treasure.



Rachel M. Wilson

RACHEL M. WILSON

(September 13, 1919 - April 27, 2012)

Rachel M. Wilson, age 92, of Belleville, MI, passed away Friday, April 27, 2012 at her home. She was born September 13, 1919 in Dundee, MI, daughter of the late Emmer & Doris (Watson) Sheats.

She was the valedictorian of her class. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church, Belleville, and also the Choir Director for the children in her church. Mrs. Wilson was devoted to her family and her God. She enjoyed participating in the Cub and Girl Scouts, choir, and she loved cooking, canning, children and music.

Rachel is survived by three children Janice Marie (Brad) Whitehouse of Northville, MI, James Russell (Sandy) Wilson of Ypsilanti, and Dennis John Wilson of Caro, MI; 4 grandchildren Traci Berrier, Dennis John (Cari) Wilson, Jr., Eric Wilson and Michael (Shelly) Wilson; one great-grandchild Rylan Wilson; a sister Ruth Florian of Milan, MI; also numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband John Russell Wilson on February 11, 2006, also three brothers Marvin, Howard, and Earl Sheats.

Visitation was 2-8 PM Monday and 10-11 AM Tuesday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, with an 11:00 AM Funeral. Interment was in Hillside Cemetery, Belleville.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church Camp, and would be greatly appreciated by her family. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory for them to treasure at www.davidcbrownfh.com.

EARL ALBERT WALLIS

(January 16, 1936 - April 30, 2012)

Age 76 of Pittsfield Township. Survived by wife Leila, 4 children, 2 granddaughters. Served in U.S. Army. Ford retiree. Visitation Thursday at David C. Brown Funeral Home. Services at Metro Baptist Church, 11 a.m., Fri.



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Romulus pre-trial exams in VBT board room completed on Monday

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Monday, 33rd District Court Judge James K. Kersten ended the pre-trial exams for seven defendants in the Romulus police corruption case.

The 34th District Court exams had been held before the visiting judge for five days at the Van Buren Township Hall, and had been expected to continue for three or four weeks.

Judge Kersten ruled that transcripts of the proceedings would be completed and then there would be 45 days for the prosecution to prepare oral arguments and then another 45 days for the defense attorneys to respond. Then there would be another 20 days for the prosecution to respond.

The Wayne County Prosecutor's Office team figured the case will be delayed for about 120 days.

Meanwhile, the defendants are out on personal bond. They are:

- Michael St. Andre, former Romulus Police Chief, who faces 10 charges, including conducting a criminal enterprise and acquiring or maintaining a criminal enterprise. He faces up to 20 years in prison;

- Sandra Vlaz-St. Andre, his wife, who faces up to 20 years for allegedly acquiring or maintaining a criminal enterprise and a

charge of conspiracy criminal enterprise;
• Detective/Sgt. Richard Balzer who faces felony racketeering charges that carry up to 20 years in prison;

- Detective Donald Hopkins who faces felony racketeering charges that carry up to 20 years in prison;

- Detective Richard Landry who faces felony racketeering charges that carry up to 20 years in prison;

- Detective Jeremy Channells who faces charges of misconduct in office that carry up to 5 years in prison; and

- Detective Larry Droege who faces charges of misconduct in office that carry up to five years in prison.

When all the district court procedures are complete, Judge Kersten will decide whether there is reason to believe crimes were committed and whether these defendants might have been the ones committing the crimes. If so, he will bind the defendants over for trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The district court sessions were held in the VBT board meeting room because the courtrooms at 34th District Court were not large enough to accommodate all the defendants, all their defense attorneys, Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Lori Dawson and her team, and two sets of binders holding 20,000 pages of evidence.

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VBT Police

(continued from page 1)

investigating the home invasion, officers located several pieces of mail from six different residences strewn around the subdivision on sidewalks and roadway.

Also, about 47 mailbox doors were left open. Officers collected the mail and closed all the mailboxes. The U.S. Postal Service was to send representatives out to pick up the mail collected by the officers.

Captain Laurain reminded everyone to be sure their houses and outbuildings are locked and secured to deter any would-be thieves.

Anyone with information concerning the home invasion and mail box tampering is asked to call the VBT Police at 734-699-8930.

On Sunday morning, VBT Police posted a Nixle alert on the home invasion to those signed up for messages to their computers and smart phones.

Judge binds over 3 VBT teens for trial, 1 teen waives pre-trial exam

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Four Van Buren Township 17-year-old males are scheduled to be arraigned on the evidence at 9 a.m. May 8 at the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in Detroit on charges surrounding kicking in of a door to a mobile home and holding a couple at gunpoint during a robbery.

On April 24, the second day of a preliminary exam that was split into two sessions, 34th District Court Judge Brian Oakley bound over three teens, continuing the \$10,000 cash bond each, and continuing their use of tethers.

Bound over were: Renj Scribbling-Elmore, Jaleel Deontae Booker, and Joseph Perry Marsh.

The fourth teen, Brandon Maurice Fair, alleged driver of the getaway car, voluntarily waived the preliminary exam at the beginning of the second session, in order to go directly to trial. His \$10,000 cash bond continues. He also is on a tether.

All the teens are charged with two counts of armed robbery, home invasion in the first degree, and possession of marijuana, with Marsh and Fair also having weapons charges. The charges could bring up to life in prison.

The alleged fifth member of the group, Raymond Hicks, has not been charged.

The first witness brought by Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor Carol Murray was Scott Moore, who testified he had walked his friend home from work at about 10:30 p.m. March 22 in the Wagon Wheel South mobile home park, north of Michigan Avenue in VBT. He said he noticed four to five people in a Chevy Impala going real slow and something didn't feel right. The driver said he was looking for Sarah. He sought out the security guard, Arcturo

Karmona, who was just coming into work. The guard approached the parked Impala, which now contained only the driver, and told him he had to move because of park rules.

Karmona said it looked like "something was going down" and told Moore to call 911. He read the license number to Moore off the back of the car with the help of a flashlight. Moore relayed the number to VBT police.

Then, both Moore and Karmona testified, four black males ran between some mobile homes wearing dark clothes and carrying things that they put in the back seat of the waiting car. The tallest one paused to point a pistol at Moore and Karmona, who said they hid behind a van. Moore had an open-carry weapon on his hip, according to testimony.

The two witnesses testified there were two people in front and three in back when the car sped off.

Karmona, who had spoken to the driver, testified the driver was a light-skinned African American wearing a white T shirt, but Karmona was unable to positively identify him in court.

Judge Oakley ultimately decided not to use Karmona's statement.

John Puckett, 36, who lives with Kim Strickland and her two daughters in a double-wide mobile home on Victoria, testified about that night when he and Kim were in bed and heard a noise coming from the front door. He got up to look and saw the door being kicked in. He said he ran back to Kim, threw her the cell phone and told her to call 911.

Puckett said he saw four men in black clothes and wearing masks. One had a handgun and the other three had rifles, he testified. The masks included a "Scream" mask, a skull, and another Halloween mask, with the fourth person wearing a bandana across his head and face with only his eyes exposed.

One asked Puckett for the "Wii" and so he gave him their Wii game system. But one said, "No, where's the weed?"

Puckett said he had about a handful of his personal stash and gave it to them, but they wanted more. A cell phone rang and one of the men yelled, "Let's go, Reggie." They ran out the door with the TV from the bedroom, an I-pod with a broken screen,

the Wii, and the marijuana.

Puckett testified that he was held on the floor with a gun pointed at his head. The girls, ages 11 and 12, were in their bedroom, but there was testimony that they were seen peeking out their door.

VBT officers responding to the 911 call at the mobile home were Chris Herrick and Joseph Smith.

After the car left the mobile home park, the license number was broadcast over the police radio and Canton Officer Derren Kossick spotted it at the Kohl's parking lot. He saw three people leave that car and get into another car.

Officer Kossick followed and stopped the car on Belleville Road and found only defendant Brandon Fair in the vehicle. The incident was recorded on Kossick's car video which was turned over to VBT Officer Jeffrey Stanton, who also testified. He said officers searched the car thinking there could be someone hiding in it. In the trunk he found Halloween masks, including a Scream mask, and black clothing. An I-pod with a cracked screen was in the "foot well" in the front seat.

Fair reportedly waived his rights about giving a statement and implicated the others.

VBT Detective Louis Keele testified he interviewed all four defendants, but the statements were not videotaped.

"We do not videotape interviews, at the officer's discretion," Det. Keele testified.

Keele said he gave the four their Miranda warnings and got confessions.

Scribbling-Elmore indicated he was one

of the four after 45 minutes of questioning, Keele said.

Marsh was arrested in front of Belleville High School at 3:43 p.m. the next day. He declined to write a statement because he said he had difficulties with grammar and writing, but he admitted to breaking into Puckett's home with weapons and stealing the TV, Wii game and I-pod.

Booker also admitted his involvement and said he drove to the location and waited for others to return to the vehicle.

Keele said he searched the Marsh home at Green Meadows with two other officers with Marsh's consent. The TV, Wii, and a BB gun were handed to him by the mother. Someone named Scott brought a rifle and shotgun to the station the following day.

Defense attorneys had questions about the teens incriminating themselves and whether co-conspirators could implicate each other and have it stick. This will be considered at circuit court in Detroit.

Story written from court notes taken by Diane Madigan.



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Van Buren Public School District readies for Quality Assurance team

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Sunday, a five-member team will come to town with the intention of scrutinizing the educational work of the Van Buren Public Schools District in order to present an oral report on Wednesday afternoon.

That's when the district will learn its accreditation status with North Central Association on Accreditation and School Improvement. This is the first year the district is seeking accreditation as a district, instead of school by school. Each school currently is accredited separately.

The public is invited to the 3 p.m. meeting on Wednesday, May 9, in the Administration Building to hear the report from the Quality Assurance Review Team. A longer, written report will be sent to the district within 30 days.

No matter how strong a district is, the QAR team is charged with presenting suggestions for improvement.

"I have high hopes," said Special Services Supervisor Diane Kullis to the school board at a special meeting on Monday.

If the QAR review goes well, the district will have bragging rights and will be able to advertise its new designation of accreditation of the whole district. Kullis said in the future if the district wishes to reopen one of its closed schools or open another school, that school will already be accredited through the district.

Kullis gave the board many documents to study to prepare for the three-day QAR team visit, since the board members will be interviewed, along with the superintendent, administrators, teachers, members of the community, and probably a few students.

Board members were a little nervous about whether they would be able to answer the questions posed by the team.

Kullis calmed their fears, then presented the schedule. The team, which includes members from Georgia, North Carolina, and South Redford High School in Michigan, will arrive on Sunday to check into a local hotel, so they can start early on Monday.

On Monday they will get an overview of the district from School Supt. Michael Van Tassel and then start their interviews in schools throughout the district, along with parent and community member interviews.

They'll eat in their hotel and Kullis has prepared carryout menus from local restaurants, so they can order and school representatives can pick up and bring the meals to the hotel. The team will continue working into the evening and start again early on Tuesday. They will split up in order to visit six different schools.

When board members asked if the team will be impressed with the new Belleville High school being constructed, Supt. Van Tassel replied that they don't care about the new buildings, but want to see artifacts (which includes many pages of reports)

and conduct interviews.

They'll be working Tuesday night again and then finish up on Wednesday morning before a final, heads-up report to Van Tassel before the public oral report at 3 p.m.

In the past the district had a QAR visit for each school every five years. If accredited as a district, that would be reduced to one visit every five years.

"This is voluntary. There is no requirement to do it," Van Tassel said, adding it will make the district stronger. "It's a growing experience for the district. It's a learning experience."

He said the report will show where the district is doing well and where it needs improvement.

Kullis, who has served on a QAR team to study another district, said the team members just want to know the board cares about education of students and fully supports its superintendent.

After they get the hoped-for good news of district accreditation, Kullis said she wants to advertise the success, so the community will know how well their schools are doing.

While some districts take a year and a half to prepare for a QAR visit, the Van Buren Schools decided in December to seek a spring review.

The local QAR team that prepared for the visit was made up of Kullis, Tim Ottewell, Michelle Briegel, Alisha Pitt, and Michelle Baker Herring.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

- Held the second readings and approvals of the new District Vision, Mission and Belief Statements and the Revised Board Policy on staff discipline;

- Was advised the May 14 meeting would include the RESA budget, reports from three elementary principals and a superintendent's evaluation in closed session. The board will be hearing from Van Tassel in that evaluation;

- Was advised the May 21 special meeting will hear from two more principals, have discussion on whether the board will have four or six-year terms (to comply with new state law), and to begin budget discussions. The budget for the new school year must be adopted before July 1; and

- Heard Van Tassel announce that the long-awaited public open house to see the new BHS has been tentatively set for Saturday, Aug. 18. There will be a ribbon cutting and the Education Foundation wants to have a roving dinner. Van Tassel said the date seems to be good so far because it is after demolition of the old high school and just before registration begins in the new high school. He emphasized the date is "not etched in stone".

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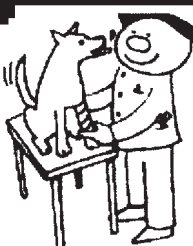
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The rest of the story on the ducklings caught in the Main St. storm sewer

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

Last week, the *Independent* published a picture of emergency workers rescuing a family of ducklings from the storm sewer underneath Main Street in Belleville. Here's the rest of the story.

Ken Smith of Douglas Carpet first noticed the female Mallard duck waddling back and forth across Main Street at about 8:30 on the morning of Saturday, April 21. Smith said a driver stopped and helped the duck across, but then she wanted to go back across, so the man helped her cross three times.

Smith pointed the duck out to Don Mason. The two were afraid she was going to get run over, so Mason called the police and Cpl. Todd Schrecengost responded. He said the mother duck was standing near the rectangular grate that led to the storm sewer and he looked down and saw the ducklings.

He called the fire department for help and called Van Buren Township Dispatch to see if animal control had a net. The net VBT had contained openings that were too big to rescue a duckling. They would just fall through.

But, Belleville Fire Department had nets that would work. Fire fighter Chris Rix arrived on a truck with Anthony Simons and Aaron Zhele. Later, Chris Zweng joined them on another truck.

Fire fighters took the grate off the drain and were able to dip 10 ducklings out of the sewer. They put them in a box and followed the suggestion of VBT Police Lt. Dennis Brooks, to put them out in the grass. They took the box over to the vacant lot at the corner of Third and Main and put the ducklings under a tree, hoping the mother would find them. As that time, she was watching from a nearby rooftop.

Rix said one of the ducklings was dead when they got there. They saved 10 and then put the grate back in place. They were picking up their tools, and getting ready to leave – when they heard another peep. There was one more left. The fire fighters couldn't leave with one still under the street.

They took the grate off again. Belleville Police Officer Jeff Wickham was across the street trying to make noise down the grate there to scare it over to the other side of the street. But it was somewhere in the middle

and couldn't be reached.

They used a fire hose to squirt some water in the sewer on Officer Wickham's side, but that didn't work.

Then, they noticed the round manhole cover in the street two feet away and opened it. The duckling was right there and was quickly dipped out.

By then, the mother duck was in the grass between the Styling Senter and the medical clinic, so they put the most recent rescue next to her. The two ran to each other, which warmed the hearts of the rescuers.

Then they went over and gathered up the ducklings that were wandering around in the grass and put them back in the box.

They carried the box of ducklings across the street and put them with the mother and the other duckling. Lots of happy ducklings reunited with their mother.

The little family was heading off between the hair salon and the clinic when last seen.

Cpl. Schrecengost said it was a nice change from the usual police runs and it had a happy ending, so everyone felt good about it. He said the city's new Police Officer Wickham was having a great time.

Lt. Brooks agreed the rescue was a nice change from regular police work.

Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, May 7 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, May 8 – Van Buren Township September Days Senior Endowment Committee, 11 a.m. Also, VBT LDFA, 2 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Board of Zoning Appeals, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, May 9 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Thursday, May 10 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m., Keystone Academy. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, tentative, 7 p.m.

• Monday, May 14 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees work/study, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council first review session of budget, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m., Rawsonville Elementary School

• Tuesday, May 15 – Van Buren Township Board of Trustees, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, May 16 – South Huron Valley Utility Authority, 10 a.m., Brownstown Township Hall. Also, Van Buren Township Planning Staff Review, 1-4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council second review session of budget, 6 p.m. Also, Belleville DDA, 6 p.m. Also, VBT Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

• Monday, May 21 – Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education work/study, 7 p.m., Administration Building. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.

• Tuesday, May 22 – Van Buren Township Downtown Development Authority, 5:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township workshop at 6 p.m., followed by regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Also, VBT Water & Sewer Commission, 7 p.m.

• Wednesday, May 23 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

• Thursday, May 24 – Van Buren Township Cultural Advisory Committee, 11 a.m.

Belleville City Council Agenda Regular Meeting Monday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance, Moment of Silence
2. Roll Call
3. Presentations & Citizens' Comment
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes
6. Public Hearing
7. Introduction of Ordinances
8. General Business
 - A. Horizon Park Use – Ready Set Wear it – Life Jacket World Record Day.
 - B. Belleville Fire Dept. – 100 Year Anniversary Celebration.
 - C. Thunder Rolls in Michigan – Street Closings & Use of Horizon Park.
 - D. Wayne County Special Events Permits.
 - E. Wayne County Annual Pavement Restoration Permit.
 - F. S-2 Grant Application – Sewage Treatment Projects.
 - G. FY2012-13 Proposed Budget.
9. Accounts Payable and Departmental Expenditures
- 10-13. Officials' and Citizens' Comments
14. Action Items for Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting.
15. Adjournment.

This is a tentative regular meeting agenda based on information which was available as of Tuesday before the meeting. Items may be added or deleted prior to the official agenda being distributed. This is not an official meeting notice.

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Photo courtesy Sheila Patton

The Van Buren Public Schools Education Foundation served more than 300 people at its all-you-can-eat spaghetti fundraiser on April 28 at St. Anthony's. Their efforts raised nearly \$3,000, which will go to grants to the teachers for students of the Van Buren School District.

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School	Grade Level	Vacancies
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	1	1
	2	5
	3	1
	4	5
Miller Elementary	5	5
	K	5
	1	5
	2	5
	3	5
Renton Junior High	4	5
	5	5
	6	10
	7	5
	8	5
Huron High School	9	5
	10	5
	11	5
	12	5

Applications are available at the Huron School District Administration Building
 Applications will be accepted between the dates listed below.
 From May 7, 2012, through May 25, 2012.
 32044 Huron River Drive, New Boston, MI 48164
 For more information please call 734.782.2441 or visit our website at
www.huronschools.com

Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



A **Drive One for Your School** event takes place this Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at **Lincoln High School**. Simply test drive a new Ford vehicle and Ford Motor Company will make a lump-sum donation to the school, up to \$6,000. Registration takes place at the event, which is sponsored by **Butman Ford of Ypsilanti**.

Curves of Belleville is celebrating **Curves Day** in Michigan with a women's health day on May 17, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at its location in **Davenport Center** on Sumpter Road. Owner **Robin Gragg** will be offering free food, games, and prizes. A free Curves Circuit with Zumba will take place at 9 and 9:30 a.m. with demos throughout the day. Call (734) 697-2000.

Atchinson Ford in Belleville is offering the low-price tire guarantee as our hometown award-winning dealer will match any competitor's written price on new tires. Atchinson offers 11 major tire brands for all makes and models. Right now, get a \$100 rebate when you purchase a new set of 4 tires and also earn 5% credit toward future purchases with owner advantage awards. They're open six days a week and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. Call (734) 697- 9161.

Paws With A Cause will be holding a informational orientation at 6 p.m. Monday, May 14, at **Haggerty Elementary School**. You can RSVP at jthorington@pawswithacasue.org or call **800-253-7297**.

The **American Red Cross** will be holding a **Blood Donor Drive** on May 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the **Van Buren Eagles Hall** on Beck Road. Appointments can be made at (734) 787-8933.

Hollow's Landscaping at **6280 Rawsonville Road** in Belleville is offering buy 3 yards of green garden blends and get one yard free with their ad in today's paper. Hollows also sell topsoil, sand, gravel, stones, bricks, and just about everything else you'll need for your landscape project.

They also have a big selection of pet-friendly and organic fertilizers and other green products Call (734) 482-7263.

Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue of Sumpter will be holding a **Cinco de Mayo Dinner & Dance** fundraiser at the **Eagles of Ypsilanti** on May 5, at 5 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person, which includes a cash bar, live entertainment, 50/50 and other prize raffles. The Eagles is located at **2935 Holmes Road**.

Tickets are on sale for \$5 each for the upcoming comedy play titled "**A Hill of Magic Beans**" on Saturday, May 12 at 3 and 7 p.m. at the **First United Methodist Church** on Charles Street. Children under 5 are free. The event is put on by the **Belleville Area Council for the Arts**. Tickets are available at the *Independent* office during regular business hours.

Cool Cone on East Huron River Drive in Belleville is back and under re-newed management. Cool Cone offers soft served ice cream, custard and yogurt, hard ice cream, and Italian ices. Open for lunch, Cool Cone also serves up burgers, hot dogs, fries, nachos, and other treats.

The *Independent* continues with our latest advertising promotion featuring free color to customers who double the size of their ad during the month of May. New and renewing display ads must be published a minimum of 4 printings in order to receive the color. So, in the addition of getting four ad weeks for the price of three, you'll get free color, too, just for upsizing. To learn more call me at (734) 699-9020.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at 734-699-9020 with your suggestion. There is no charge to be in this column.

Community Chorus sets 'Let the Music Take You' concert

The Belleville Community Chorus invites the public to join them at 4 p.m. Sunday, May 6, for a musical journey across this country entitled, "Let the Music Take You".

The free concert will be performed at the Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street, in downtown Belleville. It will feature the adult, teen, and children's chorus.



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Dan Wright announces he is running for Van Buren Township Trustee

To begin, my name is Dan Wright, and this community has been my home for 35 years. I am a 1994 graduate of Belleville High School.

I worked with youth programs after graduation and decided that teaching was a career I wanted to pursue. During my time at Eastern Michigan University, I began coaching and working for Van Buren Township as a summer camp coordinator.

After receiving a B.S. in English with a teaching certificate, I was offered an English teaching position at North Middle School where I have been an educator and coach for the past ten years.

I have since returned to Eastern Michigan University and earned an M.A. in Speech and Communication and an M.A. in Reading Literacy from Marygrove College.

If elected as Trustee, I will strive to make Van Buren Township a better place to live, work and raise a family. I ensure as Trustee I will govern my jurisdiction honestly and efficiently, keeping the community's best interest at heart.

I believe that keeping our community safe is a priority and I want to provide services that enhance our lives and promote unity.

I want to cooperate with other elected officials to achieve objectives we design that benefit this community. I am not willing to make promises or allegiances with anyone. I will make decisions that I feel are the correct decisions at that time given specific circumstances.

If you believe in honesty and integrity, then you should vote for me.

State Rep. Dian Slavens sets May coffee hours

State Representative Dian Slavens, D-Canton, invites residents to join her for a cup of coffee and conversation at one of her upcoming coffee hours.

Slavens will host the following May coffee hours:

- Monday, May 7, from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Belleville Charhouse, 524 Main St. in Belleville;

- Monday, May 7, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Daydream Café, 47192 Michigan Ave. in Canton;

- Monday, May 21, from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Belleville Charhouse, 524 Main St. in Belleville; and

- Monday, May 21, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Daydream Café, 47192 Michigan Ave. in Canton.

She also can be contacted toll free at (888) 347-8021 or send an email to DianSlavens@house.mi.gov with any questions or concerns.



Dan Wright

Keystone Academy sets open houses

Keystone Academy is hosting two enrollment information meetings. The one at 5:30 p.m., May 9, will present Middle School information. The one at 5:30 p.m., May 10, will present information for all grades. Keystone Academy is located at 47925 Bemis Road in Sumpter Township. For information, call 734-697-9470.

Public invited to ceremonies for BHS Distinguished Graduates

Belleville High School cordially invites the public to attend the joint induction ceremonies for the BHS Distinguished Graduates Hall of Fame and the BHS National Honor Society.

The ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 20, at the BHS Auditorium, 501 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville.

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Leon Wright issues statement of intent to run for re-election

Since becoming Van Buren Township Clerk in 2008, I have truly enjoyed serving you my constituents over the past three years. Although the first two years were very challenging it allowed me the opportunity to grow as a person and most importantly as a public servant. It allowed me the opportunity to understand what it truly takes to be a good public servant. One might ask, what is the definition of a public servant? I define it as being an elected official who serves all the people and not a select few.



During the past three years I believe we have been very fortunate as a community. We have been able to sustain in regards to being fiscal responsible in a very hostile economy. We were able to sustain jobs for our employees while most other communities were having massive layoffs and consolidation. Amidst all these obstacles I feel that I was still able to make significant progress.

Here are some of the things that I was able to achieve:

The Clerk's office maintains four cemeteries in Van Buren Charter Township. Over the past three years, the labor-intensive task of entering all paper documentation into a cemetery software program was completed. An additional computer was purchased, a user manual was developed, cemetery maps created and all cemeteries were given physical addresses to allow for GPS locating. Residents may now conduct self-directed genealogical searches, to address resident concerns over maintenance and preservation of our cemeteries. I formed the Van Buren Township Cemetery Advisory Committee and stand as a representative to the committee. Through a collaborated effort this committee developed a Cemetery Ordinance; this ordinance was presented to the Board of Trustees on March 20, 2012 as its first reading and approved on April 3, 2012. In honor of our veterans, I coordinated the placement of a veteran flag for all interments with the help of Township resident Marie Krouse. Also, I coordinated an Eagle Scout project, where they created an Honorary Veterans Plaque along with benches that will be placed in Tyler Cemetery this spring.

To increase participation and promote awareness of elections I have actively reached out to the community. I aggressively pursued a Student Election Inspector Program with Belleville High School to foster a lifelong commitment to community service and presently conduct presentations on the functions of local government to the school's civics classes. Now in its second election cycle, students are participating in the election process as both volunteers and paid election inspectors. Expanding on the success of this program, I have begun collaboration with Wayne County Community College-Western Campus to develop a similar program this year.

Responding to a large volume of calls from residents on Election Day unsure of their polling locations, I developed a neighborhood "Polling Location Signage" program. Signage identifies where the specific precinct for residents is located. These signs are placed throughout a significant number of neighborhoods on Election Day through the collaborative efforts of neighborhood association members and apartment complex management. Fostering a relationship with local businesses, I have also recruited business owners with marquees to display messages on Election Day, reminding residents to vote.

To address the needs of our seniors and disabled residents, an ADA compliant drive-up mail box was installed at the main entrance to our township. This was possible through the use of C.D.B.G. (Community Block Development Grant) funds that provide ease in return of Absentee Voter Applications and ballots. Efforts are under way to hold numerous Voter Registration Drives throughout the community this year. Most notably will be a booth at the Belleville National Strawberry Festival this summer. In collaboration with Sumpter Township and the City of Belleville, I will host an Election Inspector Orientation and Recruitment Seminar this spring. Embracing technological advancements in the election process, the required contracts have been executed in conjunction with the State of Michigan that will bring Electronic Poll Books to our jurisdiction in the very near future.

Balancing the need of reaching the most residents, while focusing on declining revenues, I have re-negotiated legal notice publication costs. I maintain E-Newsletters "Legal Notices" and "Clerk's Office Updates". I also initiated at no cost to residents, a document shred day that been hosted annually for the past three years.

Handling all human resource functions I'm currently in the process of negotiating my second contract with AFSCME local 236. In conjunction with the Supervisor and Treasurer, we successfully negotiated the Host Community Agreement with Environmental Quality Hazardous Waste Landfill. This negotiation allowed for improvements and restoration to the Little League ball fields. These improvements included painting, upgrading of rest room facilities, parking lot pavement and landscaping. Continued upgrades to the dug-outs and concessions stand along with a new pavilion and playscape are in the plans for this summer, thanks to my suggestions for use of available C.D.B.G. funds. These funds can only be used in a low-income community.

I have continued to enhance my skills and education with attendance at numerous Michigan Township Association classes and the completion of the Michigan Municipal Clerks Institute. I'm active in the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC), Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), Wayne County Clerks Association (WCCA) and Michigan Township Association (MTA).

(continued on page 14)

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Leon Wright

(continued from page 13)

I was recently appointed to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) Events Planning Committee with a term expiring December 2014 and the Southwestern Michigan Democratic Club.

I was active with establishing the Andover Farms Home Owners Association. I have held all elected positions within this organization and currently serve as Vice President. I'm Vice President of the Men's Ministry at New Hope Baptist Church. I am active with the Belleville PTO "Tiger Parents" group and band booster. I am a member of the Van Buren Township "September Days" seniors and a board representative to the Van Buren Township Recreation Committee.

I have been a resident of Van Buren Township for the past 18 years. Married for 24 years to my loving wife Janice we have two sons. Leondre, age 18, who attends Central Michigan University and Jabari, age 14, who attends Belleville High School.

I have made significant progress over the last three years and I continue to see things that I would like to improve upon and continue to progress our community. I don't believe in making campaign promises, although I do believe in having a "Vision". A vision of something you believe in and would like to see materialize, a vision to accomplish more for the continued prosperity of our community.

My vision is to see Van Buren Township materialize into that premier community that everyone speaks about and hopes for. My role is to ensure this becomes a reality, but in order for this to become a reality we have to remain focused on some key issues and to sustain a viable Public Safety Department.

We have to partner with our schools to ensure continual growth and finally we have to encourage public involvement within our community. I truly believe we can succeed in all of the above areas with your help and support. I am asking that you Re-elect me, Leon Wright, as your Township Clerk. I can be contacted at vbtclerk@comcast.net, visit my face book page at **re-elect Leon Wright for Van Buren Township Clerk** and also follow me on twitter at **vbtclerkMI**.

Thank You,
Clerk Leon Wright

Pet of the Week

Friends of Michigan
Animals Rescue

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You can't go wrong with **Teri**. This young female Shepherd mix has a gentle shyness that will win you over in a matter of minutes. She can start off a little hesitant but once she understands you are there to love on her she completely melts into the attention. **Teri** likes to stay close whether it's inside or outside and very well might become a great off-leash companion with some proper training. She's an absolute treat to walk as she stays near your side and leaves the pulling for the pups that need more than being with their favorite people friends. **Teri's** beautiful reddish brown coat and golden eyes complement her personality and make for one amazing dog you don't want to miss out on meeting. **Teri** will make for a great best friend whether it's for an individual or a family and will only continue to blossom into a lovable, social and loyal companion once settled into a fur-ever home. She will need some basic training but is eager to learn and very intelligent so training should not be too difficult. **Teri** is spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped and ready to meet her new family today. Call soon to meet this incredible best friend to be!

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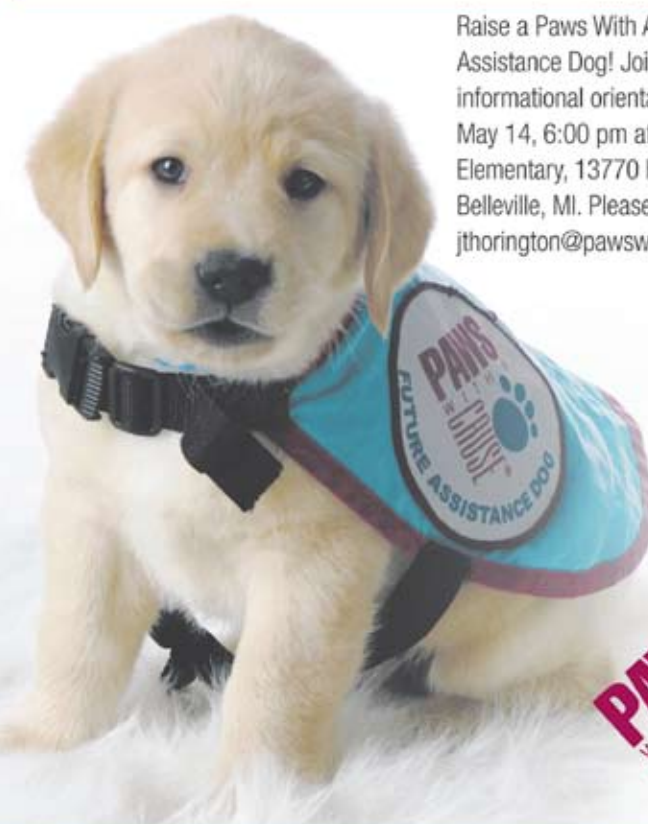
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VBT wrestles with what to do about fisherman who mess up shoreline

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

On Sunday, Dennis Brooks left his Van Buren Township lakeside home and took his boat under the Belleville Bridge, only to get tangled in two fishing lines.

The fishermen were outraged and pelted Brooks with bottles for messing up their fishing.

On Monday, Brooks (a VBT police officer) and others were present in the audience at the VBT Board's workshop session that considered the establishment of no fishing areas on a portion of the Belleville Lake

shoreline and the posting of "no fishing" signs.

Trustee Jeff Jahr said he can recognize the concerns of residents because there is a history to this that has gone back many years. The area around the Belleville Bridge is an extremely popular area for recreational fishing for township residents and visitors, he pointed out.

But, there has been a lot of debris on the shoreline and graffiti under the bridge, he continued. It's a long walk to a restroom, so fishermen are relieving themselves into the lake, often within the sight of homeowners.

"When we went up to talk to the DNR for the library site ... they felt that the area by the causeway is the best fishing in the lake," Jahr said, adding if fishing was part of the

library site agreement, Belleville would have to remove its No Fishing signs.

Jahr said he thinks they should accept Terry Carroll's recommendation to set up the 2,228 lineal feet of no-fishing area and post No Fishing signs, but also to send the issue to the Recreation Commission to look into a way to allow fishing in the lake, which might include arranging for trash pickup.

Carroll, Director of Planning and Economic Development, had presented the recommendation on behalf of the administration. He also recommended paying up to \$1,131 to buy the signs. That allows for \$24 per post and \$15 per sign.

How far apart the signs would be posted is another issue. The present ordinance allows for signs to be placed 350' apart, but Carroll measured the City of Belleville signs and he recommended placing them 75' apart, just like Belleville.

"This is an entrance to our community and there has been a lot spent on the streetscape," Jahr said. "The entrance to our community shouldn't be littered with no fishing signs ... I don't agree with sign after sign after sign after sign."

Jahr said he would seriously want to look at the spacing between signs, noting driving into the community and seeing all the signs "looks like we are against fishing."

"I hear the complaints, see the blight," said Clerk Leon Wright. "It's easy to pass a resolution ... but what accommodations can we make so people can fish?"

He said some are recreational fishermen, but some people fish there to put food on the table.

"Are we taking away their right to fish?" Clerk Wright asked. "I think we need to put more thought on the long-term effect."

"I think your suggestion is well-founded," Carroll said. "There should be places for people to fish."

Supervisor Paul White said the best places to fish are up close to the bridge, but there is an alternative site at French Landing Dam.

Jahr said that site is not supposed to be as good.

Treasurer Sharry Budd said she took her grandchildren fishing at French Landing and she spent her time picking up trash left by fishermen. She remembers they had put trash barrels by the bridge in the past and the fishermen built fires in them.

Trustee Phil Hart asked why Carroll brought this item to the board when it could be handled administratively.

Carroll said the ordinance says the supervisor can authorize the no-fishing

area, but the board has to approve his decision. He said he thought they could do it all at once.

Carroll said they could consider fewer signs, but they have to be 8' tall. Jahr said the county would have to give permission for signs in the road right of way. He agreed that the Recreation Commission should study the issue.

"We want to ban indecent exposure, loitering, and graffiti, but we don't want to ban fishermen," Jahr said.

Jahr, also a boater with a lakeside home, said boaters can only use the center span of the Belleville Bridge most of the time because of the fishing lines. He almost got hooked once by someone fishing from the bridge.

Jahr said the DNR said this area is missing a good bet because there is salmon south of the French Landing Dam, but that area is very trashed out. Jahr said the DNR wanted local officials to do something about it.

In business at the May 1 regular meeting, the board:

- Approved buying and erecting signs banning fishing, swimming and loitering in an area on Denton Road and the Belleville Road causeway;
- Approved a moratorium on the installation of DTE Energy Smart Meters until after the Michigan Public Service Commission completes its study of the meters, with Jahr voting no. Dennis Moore, director of the Willow Run Tea Party Caucus, urged the board to stand up to DTE. He said two bills are currently in the State House's Committee on Energy and Technology which could make a difference: HB 5411 and HB 5439;
- Approved a request of revocation of Marimba Auto's tax abatement granted by the Michigan State Tax Commission in 2009 that runs through 2014, since Marimba lost a contract and sold at auction in February the equipment that was abated;
- Approved special land use so McDonald's on Belleville Road can redo its existing building;
- Removed from the agenda the proposed approval of the low bid of Gen Power Products of Wixom to perform routine maintenance and repairs on 16 township back-up power generators at various locations. The agreement is for \$6,350 per year for three years; and
- Approved a \$27,400 proposal from Wade Trim engineers to develop an update to the Township Water Distribution System Master Plan, as required by the state. Since it was in the middle of the water tower project, the state gave VBT an extension. A water reliability study must be done in 5-year intervals.

Closed-door meeting

After the workshop session on April 30, the board went into executive session with its lawyer to discuss an attorney-client opinion on Victoria Park. Moore of the Tea Party objected to the legality of having a closed session for the stated reason, but they met in closed-door session anyway.

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Photo courtesy of VBSA

The Van Buren Soccer Association got their spring season under way on April 21 at Quirk Park. The under-6 girls team "Lady Bulldogs" and the "Pink Dragon Flies" get set to kick the ball downfield.

Sumpter Country Fest seeks cute baby pictures for festival contest

The Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission will hold its 2012 Cutest Baby Boy and Baby Girl Contest on Memorial Day weekend, May 24-28, as part of the annual Sumpter Country Fest.

The contest is open to the residents of Sumpter and neighboring communities. Babies from newborn through age three are eligible.

To enter a child, submit a picture up to 5x7" in size with an application form to Sumpter Township Hall, Attn. Baby Contest, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, (734) 461-6201. Applications are requested as soon as possible, but no later than May 22.

Application forms are available at the township hall and at numerous business places throughout the area, including the *Belleville-Area Independent* at 152 Main Street, Suite 9, Belleville.

If you have questions or would like to have an application form mailed to you, call Joanne Posegay at (734) 697-0639.

Pictures will be displayed in the pavilion during the festival and winners will be determined by the total points collected. A \$1 donation to the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission equals 10 points.

The contest ends at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, May 28. Winners will be announced at 5:30 p.m. at the festival pavilion.

First through third-place winners will be chosen in the boys' and girls' categories.

Prizes include trophies and U.S. Mint Proof Sets, Mint Silver Dollars, or Mint Silver Half Dollars.

Most Photogenic Baby award will be chosen by Photography by Shannon of Belleville and will win a \$100 studio certificate and trophy.

A trophy cup and certificate will be awarded to the Cutie Pie of 2012.

Aaron Lorincz named to NCBCA All-American Team for bowling skills

By Bob Mytych
Independent Sports Editor

Sumpter Township resident and Saginaw Valley State University sophomore Aaron Lorincz was named to the National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association's All-American First Team for his performance from the past season.

Lorincz becomes the first SVSU bowler



to garner All-American honors since the 2008-09 season. Lorincz, a transfer student from Schoolcraft College, was a co-captain alongside Brian Moore, another Belleville resident.

Lorincz led the Cardinals with a 214 average this past season. He was named tournament MVP at the American Heartland #2 in November and the Blue & Gold Classic in January as he claimed first-place honors at both tournaments. He also made the all-tournament team five times during the season, placing in the top five in each event.

Lorincz is the son of Bob and Renee Lorincz of Sumpter Township.

New campground opens this weekend at Lower Huron Metropark

By Bob Mytych
Independent Sports Editor

Camping close to home arrives in our backyard this weekend as Lower Huron Metropark in Van Buren Township/Huron Township opens its new Walnut Grove Campground. The rustic campground will offer fun and adventures for all ages.

Campers are encouraged to bring their walking shoes, bikes, and inline skates to use the adjacent hike-bike trail, which connects Lower Huron to Willow and Oakwoods Metroparks to the south.

Fishing along the Huron River is easy access at three fishing decks located within the park, as well as the camp's river shoreline. Basketball courts, a baseball diamond and tennis courts are within a short hike, along with the Par-3 golf course which can be played for \$6 per person on weekends, \$5 during the week.

Tents, campers and motor homes are allowed with two tents or one RV per site. No hookups (water & electricity) are available. Modern restrooms are available within the campground and showers will be available mornings at the Turtle Cove Aquatic Center from May 26 through Labor Day.

Campsites can be reserved for a \$20 per day fee, which does not include park entry fee of \$5 daily or \$25 annually. Reservations can be made at the Lower Huron Park office during regular business hours.

Pre-registration with a full non-refundable payment is recommended. For info, call the office at (734) 697-9181.

Cancer survivors invited to celebrations at Relay for Life on May 5-6

The Belleville version of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event will be held from 10 a.m., Saturday, May 5, to 10 a.m., Sunday, May 6, at Quirk Park, south of the Van Buren Township Hall.

Relay for Life begins at 10 a.m. Saturday with the opening ceremony featuring the National Anthem performed by the Belleville High School Choir. Then comes a Survivors Lap to honor all cancer survivors and their caregivers.

After dark, the event honors people who have been touched by cancer and remember loved ones lost during the Luminaria Ceremony. Candles are lit inside bags filled with sand, each one bearing the name of a person touched by cancer.

Those wishing to make a donation for a Luminaria in honor or in memory of someone touched by cancer, call 248-663-3404.



City of Belleville Public Notice



Hillside Cemetery Advisory Committee

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

**Flag Placement for Memorial Day 2012
8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 19th**



The Cemetery Advisory Committee will be placing American Flags on the graves of all veterans who are buried at Hillside Cemetery. The project will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 19th.

Volunteers are needed to help place the flags. Each Cemetery section takes only about one hour of work - a small sacrifice for us in honor those who fought to keep us free.

Join us to help honor our veterans as we prepare for Memorial Day 2012, an important year in the history of defending our liberty.

Lisa Long
City Clerk/Treasurer



PUBLISH: May 3, 2012



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Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes April 10, 2012

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Vawters at 6:30 pm showing present: Supervisor Vawters, Clerk Hoffman, Treasurer J. Morgan, Trustees: Bates & P. Morgan. Excused absence Trustees: Kennedy & Hamm. Also present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hurst and approximately 11 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Public comments only on agenda items.

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve the regular board meeting minutes March 27, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to approve the public hearing budget meeting minutes March 27, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to accept minutes of the command staff fire meeting of April 1, 2012 with correction on meeting date to be March 13. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J. Morgan to accept minutes of the firefighters meeting of April 1, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Warrants: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by J.

Morgan to approve the warrants totaling \$458,173.83 by roll call vote. Yes: Vawters, Hoffman, J. Morgan, Bates, & P. Morgan. Nays: None. Absence: Kennedy & Hamm. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Water & Sewer: Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to approve the water & sewer report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Police/Ordinance: Motion by J. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the police/ordinance report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Building: No report.

10. Fire: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the fire report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Treasurers: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the treasurers' report as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Supervisor: Motion by J. Morgan, supported by Hoffman to approve the supervisors' report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Attorney: Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to approve the attorneys' report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Board Response: Motion by J. Morgan, supported by P. Morgan to hire at \$30.00 hr. a level 3 assessor Susan Iott to eventually replace Wayne County as an on call as needed basis assessor. Motion carried unanimously.

15. New Business:

A. Motion by Hoffman, supported by J. Morgan to approve Later Gator Landscaping bid for "Noxious Weeds" grass cutting. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to

approve Later Gator Landscaping bid for Senior Grass cutting paid out of CDBG Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Motion by Bates, supported by J. Morgan to approve to go out for bids for the purchase of a four wheel drive, 35 horsepower utility tractor with loader for water/sewer use only. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Motion by Hoffman, supported by Bates to approve for Wayne County tire recycling for May 5, 2012 and approve over time for 3 of water employees, secretary and 2 workers. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Bates to approve the 2011-2012 "Home" program contract with Wayne County. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Announcements:

17. Open Floor

18. Adjournment: Motion by Hoffman, supported by P. Morgan to adjourn at 6:53 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees on April 10, 2012 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be

available as required by said act.

Clarence J. Hoffman Jr., Clerk

Published: May 3, 2012

Tom Fielder elected president of Belleville Area Historical Society

Former Belleville Mayor Tom Fielder, who is retired as a teacher from the Van Buren Public Schools, was elected president of the Belleville Area Historical Society at its annual meeting Feb. 16.

Others elected were vice president Linda Heim-Barger, secretary Helen Wylie, treasurer Gerry Cullin and trustees Mary Jane Dawson, Cathy Horste, John Juriga, and Virgie Stoltz.

The society voted to increase the number of board members from 13 to 15.

New trustees elected are: Doug Dalton, Connie Etter, Marie Krouse, LaMuriel Lyman, Carol Thompson, Diane Wilson, and Ken Voigt.

President Emeritus status was granted to longtime president Fred Hudson by a vote of those present.

Van Buren Public Schools Public Notice

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Van Buren Public Schools will receive sealed bids for:

REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING ALUMINUM GLASS ENTRANCES, CEILING SYSTEMS, AND LIGHT FIXTURES SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL BELLEVILLE, MICHIGAN

Until 2:00 p.m., local time, May 17, 2012, at the Van Buren Public Schools Administration Office located at 555 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, Michigan at which time, and place, all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids received after the above stipulated date and time will not be opened, considered or accepted.

Bid documents can be obtained and paid for by interested contractor at the any Dunn Blue Reprographic Technology locations (www.dunnblue.com) beginning May 4, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. Please call ahead to order the project documents and specifications.

A non-mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held on May 10, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at South Middle School located at 45201 Owen Road, Belleville, Michigan.

Prospective bidders must meet the following minimum standards in order to submit a proposal:

- Must be an established Contractor in Michigan for a minimum of 5 years
- Has recent experience with similar work and projects in southeast Michigan markets
- Must be technically and financially capable to execute a project of size and complexity described in the Bid Documents
- Must be able to provide business and liability insurance, performance and payment bond for work required by the Bid Documents

All bids must be submitted on forms furnished by NSA Architects Engineers, for the "South Middle School Renovation" and be accompanied by a bidder's bond or a certified or cashier's check payable to Van Buren Public Schools for the sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the bid amount. All bids must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the Owner (bidder) or any employee of the bidder and any member of the District's Elected Officials or Administration. Bids received without a bidder's bond, certified or cashier's check, and a sworn and notarized statement of disclosure WILL BE REJECTED.

Van Buren Public Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities therein and accept that bid, which best serves the District's interest.

Publish: May 3, 2012

National Heritage Academies Keystone Academy Public Notice

KEYSTONE ACADEMY BUDGET HEARING

Public Budget Hearing will be held for the following Public School Academy:

Keystone - 47925 Bemis, Belleville - 734-697-9470 - May 10th, 6:00 pm
Copies of the Budget for the listed Public School Academy will be available at the school office.

Publish: May 3, 2012

Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

Seeking Housing Rehabilitation Bids

The Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, MI will receive bids for Housing Rehabilitation activities at 47151 Lauren Court, Van Buren Township, MI 48111 through the Community Development Block Grant Program. Bid forms and work specifications are available at the Township Clerk's Office, 46425 Tyler Road, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday. Bids will be received until 10:00 a.m., May 17, 2012 and should be submitted to the Clerk's Office. The bids will be publicly opened at 10:15 a.m. May 17, 2012. The Township reserves the right to reject any and all bids and is not required to take the low bid. Any questions should be directed to the Van Buren Township Building Department at (734) 699-8913.

Publish: May 3, 2012

BHS New Tech has 2 videos among 13 finalists in video challenge

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The New Tech High School, a school within a school at Belleville High School, is taking part in a video challenge and had two of its videos selected among 13 finalists nationwide.

One video team of four students will be selected by celebrity judges to go to New Tech's annual conference, starting July 16 in Grand Rapids.

The one video that gets the most views on You Tube will earn an extra \$500 for its school. The Viewers' Choice contest runs April 25 through May 9.

Belleville High School's New Tech videos are #4 (BNT) and #10 (We Love New Tech.flv) on the top 13 videos listed at newtechnetwork.org. There are four students in each team, facilitated by teacher Jason Butka.

According to the New Tech Network website, the video contest was put together to bring publicity to the New Tech program. The videos were to show "What's so special about New Tech?"

The New Tech Program started at Belleville High School last fall with 125 ninth graders. It will add another ninth grade class as the tenth graders continue in their New Tech classes this fall.

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

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*WAC. EHO. Financed: \$11,204 @ 10.5% APR, 60 months. Includes \$317 site rent/mo. in 1st year. Financing arranged through Sun Home Services, Inc. NMLS # 33675 Expires 4/30/12

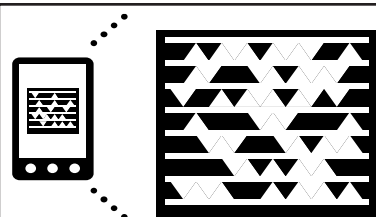
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YOUNG ALL BLACK CAT. Vicinity of Hannon Rd. & S.I-94 Service Dr. (734) 846-6411

5/10

LAB. MIX/AMERICAN Bulldog. Less than year old. Found with leather rhinestone belt on April 17th at Belleville High School. (734) 323-5204

5/10



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5/24

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5/03

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HOUSE FOR SALE

HOME FOR SALE in Belleville 6437 Denton Rd. 3 BR. 1 bath Single Family home/fixer upper. Owner financing or cash discount. \$750 down, \$370/mo. (803) 978-1540 or (803) 403-9555.

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

The following are selected runs for VBT Police.
For more detailed police logs, see www.bellevilleareaindependent.com.

Sunday, April 22:
0247 – assault & battery, 82 Park Estate
1154 – loitering, Lakewood Center
1334 – breaking & entering, 48741 S. I-94 Service
1435 – larceny, 64 Rose Blvd.
1436 – larceny, 68 Rose Blvd.
1509 – noise complaint, Country Walk/Camden
1647 – larceny, 11510 Beckley
1704 – dumping complaint, Beck/Ecorse
1724 – child abuse, 11650 Belleville Rd.
1841 – shots fired, 42045 Filmore St.
1941 – assault & battery, 42802 Patty Lane
2159 – noise complaint, 41611 S. Bellridge Dr.

Monday, April 23:
0020 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Riggs
0044 – narcotics crime, 8835 Parkwood Dr.
0705 – juvenile complaint, 43728 S. Timberview
0831 – mental, 11520 Beckley
0947 – larceny, 8707 Samuel Barton Dr.
1159 – private property accident, 42240 Hayes
1221 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1229 – breaking & entering, 84 N. Ponderosa Trl.
1302 – trespassing, 89 N. Ponderosa Trl.
1335 – assault & battery, 15486 Pebblebrook Dr.
1352 – private property accident, Walmart
1351 – larceny, 10965 Van Buren St.
1644 – private property accident, 6345 E. Sadie Ln
1741 – larceny, 9976 Kennedy St.
1812 – trespassing, 10950 Belleville Rd.
1942 – operating while intoxicated, 45455 Ecorse
2006 – disturbance, 6073 Vernon St.
2031 – assault & battery, 50 N. Ponderosa Trl.
2048 – suicide or attempt, 73 Rose Blvd.
2132 – malicious destruction of property, 72 Rose Blvd.
2157 – malicious destruction of property, Walmart
2351 – missing person, 49167 Bemis

Tuesday, April 24:
0008 – noise complaint, 46141 Village Green Ln.
0621 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
/ W. Huron River Dr.
0621 – personal injury accident, Rawsonville Rd. /
W. Huron River Dr.
0837 – narcotics crime, Tyler School
1226 – property damage accident, Haggerty/Alden
1305 – intimidation threat, 46425 Tyler Rd.
1353 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1417 – fraud, 2037 Rawsonville Rd.
1442 – personal injury accident, 8380 Belleville
1529 – fraud, 10591 Oak Ln.
1733 – juvenile complaint, 9970 Rolan Meadows
1737 – fight, Buchanan/Arthur
1746 – fraud, 46425 Tyler Rd.
1805 – breaking & entering, 7023 Belle Pointe Dr.
1908 – hospice, 17200 Renton Rd.
1956 – larceny, 10819 Oak Ln.
1959 – private property accident, 11123 Oak Ln.
2002 – missing person, 43 N. Ponderosa Trl.
2036 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.

Wednesday, April 25:
0641 – assault & battery, 10166 Rolan Meadows
1120 – intimidation threat, 51171 Sylvia Dr.
1323 – trespassing, 44492 Robson Rd.
1445 – mental, 14144 Hannan Rd.
1555 – noise complaint, Kirkridge playground
1631 – water leak found, 10929 Van Buren St.
1726 – malicious destruction of property, 14280
Winding Pond Dr.
1731 – assault & battery, 50683 Old Michigan Rd.
1824 – juvenile complaint, Hickory Woods
1918 – juvenile complaint, 41472 E. Archwood
2048 – narcotics crime, 48541 S. I-94 Service Dr.
2100 – harassment call, 256 S. Ponderosa Trl.
2139 – intimidation threat, 5817 Vernon St.
2152 – noise complaint, 120 Richard Run
2210 – fraud, 9701 Belleville, Meijer
2225 – assault & battery, 48920 Denton Rd.

Thursday, April 26:
0157 – assault & battery, 25 Oak Blvd.
0302 – larceny, 6164 E. Adams
0313 – breaking & entering, 39730 Ecorse Rd.
0415 – suspicious vehicle, Savage School
0631 – noise complaint, 158 Aspen
0810 – intimidation threat, 7882 Mida Dr.

1024 – suspicious situation, Lenmoore/dead end
1220 – fraud, Walmart
1410 – loitering, 6850 Sheldon Rd.
1428 – intimidation threat, 45000 bl. Van Born
1446 – private property accident, Ecorse Mobil
1520 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
1704 – juvenile complaint, Hickory Woods
1708 – assault & battery, 9180 Parkwood Dr.
1726 – suspicious person, 41233 Savage
1905 – retail fraud, 10850 Belleville
2158 – harassment call, 11729 Meadows Cir.

Friday, April 27:
0114 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
0115 – narcotics crime, 46425 Tyler Rd.
0421 – assault & battery, 46070 Lake Villa Dr.
1048 – malicious destruction of property, 45525 N.
I-94 Service Dr.
1200 – breaking & entering, 2315 Rawsonville Rd.
1254 – indecent exposure, 47097 McBride
1355 – breaking & entering, 51 Rose
1516 – larceny, 51367 America
1626 – juvenile complaint, Skate Park
1810 – assault & battery, 46000 Lake Villa Dr.
1822 – juvenile complaint, W. Walden/Celestine
1854 – noise complaint, VB Estates
2005 – juvenile complaint, Savage/Country Walk
2048 – suspicious person, Van Buren Park
2109 – juvenile complaint, 6238 Truman
2211 – agency assist, 16800 Lohr
2233 – child abuse, 96 Richard
2324 – intimidation threat, 47220 Lauren Ct.

Saturday, April 28:
0122 – operating while intoxicated, S. I-94 Service
Dr./Denton Rd.
0128 – intimidation threat, 6003 Winchester St.
0355 – operating while intoxicated, WB I-94 /
Belleville
0903 – fire investigation, 7301 Rawsonville Rd.
0917 – assault & battery, 45697 Ecorse
0952 – fraud, 2033 Rawsonville
1342 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service
Dr./Denton Rd.
1419 – harassment call, 8800 Parkwood Manor
1448 – assault & battery, 45315 Van Born
2147 – fraud, Walmart
2158 – operating while intoxicated, 2033
Rawsonville
2224 – noise complaint, 51214 Sylvia
Also on this log are 263 traffic stops, 17 of which
were on the freeways: I-94 and I-275.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 22:
0155 – suspicious person, Johnny’s
0214 – fight, 146 High St., Johnny’s
1025 – animal complaint, Village Park
1258 – harassment call, 575 Sumpter, Co-op
1309 – larceny, 250 N. Liberty
1403 – welfare check, 585 W. Thornhill Ct.
1459 – juvenile complaint, Victory Park
1645 – missing person, 54 Biggs Ave.
1845 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 54 Biggs Ave.
1852 – vehicle lockout, 575 Sumpter, Co-op
1904 – E-911 cellular, 548 Sumpter Rd.
2320 – suspicious person, 144 Carmell St.
2324 – warrant arrest, Sumpter/Bemis

Monday, April 23:
0849 – assist fire dept., 351 W. Columbia Ave.
1112 – suspicious situation, 573 Main St.
1127 – assist fire dept., 388 Main St.
1224 – private property accident, Family Dollar
1514 – suicide or attempt, 416 Sumpter Rd.
1700 – juvenile complaint, Victory Park
1725 – juvenile complaint, 93 Carmell St.
1846 – suspicious person, Belle Villa
1946 – follow up, 6 Main St.
2325 – assist fire dept., 575 Sumpter Rd., Co-op

Tuesday, April 24:
0244 – suspicious vehicle, Hillside
1039 – welfare check, Sumpter/Industrial Pk. Dr.
1335 – violation public health code/violation
controlled substance act, BHS
1427 – warrant arrest, Industrial Pk. Dr./Sumpter
1648 – found property, 496 Main St.
2110 – intrusion alarm, 575 W. Columbia, Columbia
Court

Wednesday, April 25:
0448 – vehicle repossession, 279 Victorian Ln.
1041 – E-911 hangup/investigation, South Middle

School, 45201 Owen
1639 – property damage accident, Main/Huron
River Dr.
1822 – fraud, Red Apple
1823 – harassment call, 350 Edison
Thursday, April 26:
1154 – E-911 hangup/investigation, 201 Third St.
1258 – suspicious person, Secretary of State
1838 – larceny from auto, 25 1st St.
1859 – assist fire dept., 167 Fourth St., library

Friday, April 27:
0502 – assist fire dept., 170 Main St.
0838 – intimidation threat, 6th Main St.
0857 – prisoner transfer, 34th District Court
0922 – ordinance violation, 132 Wexford Ave.
1109 – assist fire dept., 305 Edison Ave.
1133 – juvenile complaint, 2nd St./Church
1215 – suspicious situation, 375 N. Liberty St.
1704 – narcotics crime, Skate Park
1831 – retail fraud, 265 Sumpter Rd.
1849 – assist fire dept., 404 Main, Bayou

Saturday, April 28:
0159 – agency assist, 12 Maple
1302 – misc. complaint, Belleville Transmission
1535 – intrusion alarm, 493 Harbour Pointe Dr.
1549 – property damage accident, Owen/South
1644 – disorderly conduct, 406 Robbe St.
1715 – domestic assault, 60 Loza Lane
1840 – E-911 cellular, 2562 Michigan
1843 – trespassing, Belle Villa/Carmell
1843 – disorderly conduct, Johnny’s
2252 – suspicious situation, South Middle School
Also on this log are 21 traffic stops.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 15:
0243 – ORV complaint, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
0440 – suspicious person, Haggerty/Judd
1055 – ordinance violation, 17000 bl. Martinsville
1121 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1212 – felonious assault, 19000 bl. Sumpter
1341 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Haggerty
1444 – ordinance violation, 39000 bl. Willis
1533 – malicious destruction of property report,
41000 bl. Willis
2045 – death investigation, 23000 bl. Bohn

Monday, April 16:
0010 – family trouble, 51000 bl. Willis
0108 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sherwood
0510 – citizen assist, 48000 bl. Bemis
0823 – neighbor dispute, Rustic Lane
0847 – citizen assist, 50000 bl. Willis
1034 – civil dispute, 25000 bl. Karr
1154 – alarm, 21000 bl. Sherwood
1343 – down wires, Willis/Elwell
1441 – alarm, 20000 bl. Sumpter
1500 – traffic hazard, 44000 bl. Wear
1508 – animal complaint, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
1528 – warrant arrest, I-94/Haggerty
1552 – ordinance violation, 50000 bl. Willis
1607 – ordinance violation, 50000 bl. Willis
1700 – fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Sherwood
1739 – fire dept. assist, 50000 bl. Judd
1935 – harassment complaint, 50000 bl. Dakota

Tuesday, April 17:
1007 – ordinance violation, 46000 bl. Willis
1046 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1051 – suspicious incident, 18000 bl. Martinsville
1123 – juvenile complaint, 40000 bl. Harris
1858 – found property, 40000 bl. Willis
2204 – flee & elude, 24000 bl. Sumpter

Wednesday, April 18:
1442 – warrant arrest, 6000 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd
1704 – breaking & entering report, 17000 bl.
Martinsville
1855 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Willow
1938 – child abuse/neglect report, Pecan
2229 – malicious destruction of property report,
Willis/Rawsonville

Thursday, April 19:
0024 – fire dept. assist, 17000 bl. Davenport Dr.
0036 – malicious destruction of property report,
Willis/Rawsonville
1642 – assist other agency, 46000 bl. Willow
2158 – fire dept. assist, Nevada

Friday, April 20:
0115 – suspicious incident, 19000 bl. Haggerty
0149 – suspicious vehicle, 17000 bl. Martinsville
0221 – noise complaint, Timberlane

0331 – ordinance violation, 24000 bl. Sherwood
0846 – assist other agency, 50000 bl. Arkona
0928 – breaking & entering report, Rustic Lane
1045 – ordinance violation, 47000 bl. Willis
1346 – ordinance violation, 46000 bl. Willis
1347 – missing person report, 28000 bl. Sherwood
1415 – larceny report, 28000 bl. Sherwood
1522 – assist other agency, 45000 bl. Bemis
1615 – larceny report, Greenmeadow
1637 – fire dept. assist, Virginia
1740 – threats complaint, 26000 bl. Karr
1755 – civil dispute, Arizona
2327 – malicious destruction of property report,

50000 bl. Willis

Saturday, April 21:
0024 – malicious destruction of property report,
Wyoming

0127 – parking complaint, 24000 bl. Sherwood
0523 – assist other agency, 48000 bl. Harris
1154 – larceny report, Rustic Lane
1728 – shots fired investigation, New Mexico
1751 – suspicious vehicle, 50000 bl. Willis
1828 – fire dept. assist, 27000 bl. Sumpter
1830 – fireworks complaint, 20000 bl. Sherwood
2014 – well-being check, 45000 bl. Arkona
2250 – threats complaint, Rustic Lane
2358 – 911 hangup investigation, 28000 bl.

Sumpter
Also on this log were eight misc. details, 108
patrol checks, 58 traffic stops, and 31 follow-up
investigations.

Sunday, April 22:
0125 – family trouble, Arizona
0308 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Bontekoe
0434 – noise complaint, 171000 bl. Sumpter
0502 – suspicious vehicle, 19000 bl. Sumpter
0848 – subpoena service, Hampshire
1413 – death investigation, 45000 bl. Arkona
1518 – alarm, 45000 bl. Wear
1557 – animal bite, 51000 bl. Arkona
1618 – civil dispute, 19000 bl. Sherwood

Monday, April 23:
0606 – suspicious incident, 5500 bl. Oakville Waltz
0641 – suspicious vehicle, 43000 bl. Harris
0741 – alarm, 18000 bl. Martinsville
0851 – suspicious vehicle, 21000 bl. Elwell
0917 – suspicious incident, 20000 bl. Elwell
1008 – suspicious vehicle, 25000 bl. Martinsville
1303 – traffic hazard, 43000 bl. Willow
1633 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter
2150 – traffic hazard, Oakville Waltz/Clark
2333 – juvenile complaint, 49000 bl. Bemis

Tuesday, April 24:
0733 – property damage accident, Willow /
Rawsonville

0913 – citizen assist, 17000 bl. Sumpter
0919 – juvenile complaint, 45000 bl. Harris
1337 – lost property report, 43000 bl. Wear
1414 – well-being check, Wayside
1524 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Wear
1559 – warrant arrest pickup, 43000 bl. Wear
1738 – alarm, 24000 bl. Sumpter
1744 – civil dispute, 26000 bl. Sumpter
1802 – fraud report, 20000 bl. Sumpter
2009 – odor investigation, 46000 bl. Willis
2114 – suspicious incident, 51000 bl. Willis
2201 – family trouble, 46000 bl. Willis

Wednesday, April 25:
0423 – fire dept. assist, Washington
0915 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Executive Dr.
1313 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1327 – harassment complaint, Dakota
1427 – warrant arrest pickup, out of township
1511 – trespassing complaint, Arkona/Martinsville
1543 – larceny report, 40000 bl. Willis
1625 – fire dept. assist, 42000 bl. Judd
1701 – well-being check, Sumpter/Bemis
1708 – threats complaint, Edgewood
1907 – fire dept. assist, 5700 bl. Oakville Waltz
2152 – fire dept. assist, Creekside

Thursday, April 26:
0129 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 24000
bl. Clark Rd.
1030 – family trouble, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
1148 – animal complaint, 46000 bl. Traskos
1245 – assist other agency, 46000 bl. Wear
1335 – suspicious vehicle, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1349 – alarm, 29000 bl. Elwell
1522 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Bemis
1805 – assist other agency, 25000 bl. Martinsville
2103 – warrant arrest pickup, 48000 bl. Wear
2133 – traffic hazard, Martinsville/Bemis

(continued on page 21)

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

(continued from page 20)

Friday, April 27:

0032 – fire dept. assist, Birch
0715 – suspicious vehicle, Clark/Judd
1318 – shots fired investigation, 6000 bl. Oakville
Waltz
2017 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Bemis/
Sumpter
2111 – ordinance violation, Redwood
2345 – shots fired investigation, Haggerty/Wear
2359 – animal complaint, 41000 bl. Willow

Saturday, April 28:

1032 – ordinance violation, 48000 bl. Willow
1120 – alarm, 8100 bl. Rawsonville
1128 – civil dispute, 20000 bl. Sherwood
1202 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1337 – family trouble, 49000 bl. Judd
1356 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1637 – alarm, 33000 bl. Willow
1752 – alarm, 23000 bl. Sumpter
2006 – fraud report, 48000 bl. Judd
2145 – operating while intoxicated arrest, 43000
bl. Judd
2258 – traffic hazard, Sumpter/Judd
Also on this log were 24 miscellaneous details, 120
patrol checks, 73 traffic stops, and nine follow-up
investigations.

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Independent photo by Rosemary Oztman

Antiques expert Doug Dalton of Belleville, at right, donated his time Saturday to raise funds for the antiques portion of ArtAffair on Main coming this summer. He and other antique experts gave appraisals on items brought in from the community to the Grace Baptist Church site in downtown Belleville. Here Sybil Buchanan of Sumpter Township hears about her grandfather's not-so-valuable bottle capper and his valuable bottle stoppers.

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Things to do in the Belleville area ...

- **Friday, May 4** – Spring Choir Concert at BHS Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- **Saturday, May 5** – Used book sale at Belleville Area District Library, from 11 a.m. to noon for members of the Friends of the Library and from noon to 3 p.m. for the general public. Also, the annual spring plant swap will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the library courtyard.
- **Saturday, May 5** -- Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue 5th-annual Cinco de Mayo Dinner fund-raiser, dinner at 6 p.m., Ypsilanti Eagles Hall, 2935 Holmes Road, Ypsilanti, tickets \$25, tickets & information, 461-9458
- **Saturday, May 5** – “Murder, Maestro, Please” dinner theater at the Bayou Grill to benefit the literacy programs of the Belleville Rotary Club and the Belleville Area District Library, 6-10 p.m., \$25 per person, tickets at Bayou, library, and from any Rotarian.
- **Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. to Sunday, May 6, 10 a.m. (24-hour event)** – Relay for Life at Quirk Park, fund raiser for American Cancer Society.
- **Saturday, May 5** – Sumpter Township residents only may drop off up to seven non-commercial-size tires at the township recycling center behind township hall, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Saturday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday, May 6, from noon to 2 p.m.** Register for Belleville Cougars football at the Van Buren Township Hall. Check www.bellevillecougars.com for information on what to bring. Also, the Cougars are in need of experienced cheerleading coaches.
- **Sunday, May 6** – Belleville Community Chorus presents its spring concert, “Let the Music Take You,” at 4 p.m. at Belleville First United Methodist Church, 417 Charles Street. Free. Features the adult, teen and children’s choruses.
- **Sunday, May 6** – Bugles Across America event at 7:15 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial, High St., Belleville.
- **Monday, May 7** – BHS Jazz Band Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium.
- **Tuesday, May 8** – BHS Concert Band Spring Concert, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium.
- **Wednesday, May 9, and Thursday, May 10** – South Middle School students present the play “Dracula in Paradise” at 7 p.m., ticket \$4. The SMS Art Show is open from 6 to 8:15 p.m., before and after the play, free.
- **Thursday, May 10** – BHS Freshmen and Symphony Band Concerts, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium
- **Thursday, May 10** – Homegrown Knowledge Series at library, 7 p.m., “How Detroit Saved the World” with Randy Hotton of the Yankee Air Force Museum. Free.
- **Saturday, May 12** – Letter Carriers Food Drive. Put some canned and packaged food in a bag out by your mailbox for your letter carrier to pick up to feed the hungry in the Belleville area.
- **Saturday, May 12** – Drive-in Dog

Clinic from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Van Buren Township Water/Sewer Building, 46425 Tyler Road, behind township hall. Vaccinations (\$16, rabies; \$28, distemper) and dog licenses (\$5/\$2.50) for township dogs, 699-8903.

• **Saturday, May 12** – Belleville Area Council for the Arts presents “A Hill of Magic Beans, or Here’s Looking at You, Jack,” a children’s comedy at 3 and 7 p.m. at Belleville First United Methodist Church,

417 Charles Street. Tickets \$5.

• **Saturday, May 12** – James Lee will teach Square Foot Gardening from 9 a.m. to noon at Van Buren Park. Cost \$15 per person or \$25 per couple, pay on day of class. Register at www.teachmesfg.com or at the VBT Recreation Dept. Information, 734-699-8921.

• **Friday, May 18, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Saturday, May 19, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.** – Annual Rummage Sale at St. Anthony Catholic

Church in Belleville. Donations may be dropped off at the gym doors beginning May 7. 699-6817

• **Saturday, May 19** – Volunteers are needed to place American Flags on the graves of veterans buried at Belleville’s Hillside Cemetery, beginning at 8:30 a.m. (Note: Volunteers often arrive early.)

• **Sunday, May 20** – BHS National Honor Society and Distinguished Graduate Inductions, 2 p.m., Auditorium.



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Ana Victoria Campos, 2008 graduate of Belleville High School and daughter of Fernando Campos and Rena Xuereb, graduated from the University of Michigan/Ann Arbor on April 28 with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and minors in History and Latino Studies. Ana will be attending Wayne State University Law School in the fall on a scholarship.

Keystone Academy recognized with Parent Loyalty Award

National Heritage Academies (NHA), one of the nation's charter school operators, recently announced the winners of its 2010-2011 Eagle Award and Keystone Academy was among the schools selected to receive the Parent Loyalty Award.

To be selected for the Parent Loyalty Award, NHA requires 60% or more of a school's parents be very satisfied with their child's school — a statistic measured by an internally-generated parent survey.

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Danielle Enschede graduated from Eastern Michigan University on April 29 with a Master of Arts degree in Communication. Danielle, who graduated from Belleville High School in 2005, is the daughter of Joseph Enschede and Lori (Terry) Calhoun. At EMU, she worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for the Fundamentals of Speech course while working on her thesis regarding bullying. Danielle graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from EMU in 2009 with a double major in psychology and communication. She plans to pursue a career of teaching at the college/university level. She also is excited to continue doing research on bullying and working to decrease the problem.

April/May Birthdays

April 21 – Linda Broughton
April 27 – Kevin English
May 1 – Ricardo Brown
May 3 – Riley Morgan
May 6 – James DeMond
May 9 – Corbin Miller
May 11 – Sylvia Sala
May 12 – Debby Young
May 17 – Pat Wood
May 19 – James Otzman
May 22 – Gail Whitmire, Mike Brothers
May 26 – Keith Miller
May 29 – Shana Sayre
May 30 – Nick Burger, Tom Sayre

Do you have a birthday in May? Does anyone you know have a May birthday? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.




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